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20. The terminal of claim 19, wherein said at least one data field is added to a Program and System Information Protocol.

21. The terminal of claim 19, wherein said at least one data field is added to an Event Information Table associated with the delivery channel.

22. The terminal of claim 21, wherein at least one of at least two delivery channels capable of sending the audio signal to the terminal has the Event Information Table.

23. The terminal of claim 22, wherein a given Event Information Table is associated with one of said at least two delivery channels.

24. The terminal of claim 22, wherein the processor generates a program guide from the Event Information Table associated with said at least two delivery channels.

25. The terminal of claim 18, wherein the optimized configuration data generated by the processor includes data that provides an alternative configuration if the delivery channel cannot support the source characteristic of the audio signal.

26. The terminal of claim 19, wherein said at least one data field is included in a recording medium containing audio data for generating the audio signal.

27. The terminal of claim 18, wherein the delivery channel is at least one selected from the group consisting of a television broadcast, radio broadcast, satellite delivery channel, wireless delivery channel, DSL delivery channel, Internet delivery channel, and cable delivery channel.

28. The terminal of claim 19, wherein said at least one data field is at least one metadata field.

29. The terminal of claim 18, further comprising a control interface that couples the terminal with audio equipment.

30. The terminal of claim 29, wherein the control interface is one selected from the group of a hard wired connection, a wireless link, or an integrally formed connection with the terminal.

31. The terminal of claim 30, wherein audio equipment data from the audio equipment is transmitted through the control interface to the terminal and wherein the processor generates the optimized configuration data based on the audio equipment data.

32. The terminal of claim 31, wherein the control interface transmits the optimized configuration data is transmitted through the control interface to the audio equipment to configure the audio equipment based on the optimized configuration data.

33. The terminal of claim 31, wherein optimized configuration data is transmitted through the control interface to the audio equipment to configure the audio equipment based on the optimized configuration data.

34. The terminal of claim 18, wherein the receiver further receives a partial program guide generated from a program guide database and a channel map database outside of the terminal.

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35. The terminal of claim 34, wherein the terminal generates an assembled program guide based on the data in the program guide database and the channel map database.

36. A system for optimizing reproduction of an audio signal that has source characteristic data and that is transmitted through at least one of a plurality of delivery channels, comprising:

- a receiver that receives the audio signal and the source characteristic data;
- a channel map database that contains delivery channel capability data for at least one each of said plurality of delivery channels;
- a program guide database that stores the source characteristic data;
- a control interface that couples the terminal with audio equipment to allow audio equipment data to be transmitted to the terminal; and
- a processor that generates optimized configuration data for reproducing the audio signal based on the source characteristic data, the delivery channel capability data, and the audio equipment data.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the receiver, program guide database and the channel map database and processor are disposed in a terminal.

38. The system of claim 36, wherein the program guide database and the channel map database are disposed in a memory that is in a head-end portion of the system.

39. The system of claim 36, wherein the optimized configuration data generated by the processor includes automatic configuration information that is transmitted to the audio equipment via the control interface.